

CHAPTER 7

VEHICLE TITLING AND REGISTRATION

Motor Vehicle Certificates of Title

A certificate of title is evidence of vehicle ownership. An Indiana resident who purchases a vehicle for use in Indiana must have it titled no later than 31 days from the date of purchase. A delinquent fee will be assessed after 31 days.

- **Where To Obtain a Certificate of Title:** Persons may apply for a certificate of title at any license branch in the State of Indiana.
- **Payment of Sales Tax:** If the vehicle was not purchased from licensed motor vehicle dealer, sales tax must be paid at the license branch based on the purchase price of the vehicle. If the vehicle was purchased from a dealer, the dealer will collect the sales tax at the time of sale.
- **Required Documentation and Information:**
 - **Assignment of Title by Seller:** An applicant for a new certificate of title must bring the certificate of title or certificate of origin (new vehicle) held by the seller showing that it has been assigned to the applicant.
 - **Odometer Statement:** Federal and State laws require an odometer statement be completed by the seller any time a vehicle's ownership is transferred. This statement is generally included on the certificate of title.
 - **Vehicles Titled in Another State:** If the title assigning a motor vehicle to the applicant was issued by another state, the purchaser must obtain a signed statement from a law enforcement officer (**this must be on an Indiana Inspection Form**). Or a license branch employee may verify that the vehicle identification number ("VIN") on the out-of-state title is the same as the VIN found on the motor vehicle.
 - **Social Security Number or Federal Employer Identification Number:** For taxation and identification purposes Indiana law (IC 4-1-8-1) requires individuals to provide their social security number when titling a vehicle in Indiana. Companies must provide their federal employer identification number at time of application. A title transaction will not be processed without a social security number or federal employer identification number.
 - **Requirements for New Residents:** New residents to Indiana must title their vehicle(s) within 60 days of becoming an Indiana resident. A new resident applicant must bring his or her title document from the previous state of residence and must obtain a statement from a law enforcement officer or license branch employee affirming that the VIN on the out-of-state title is the same as that found on the motor vehicle.

NOTE: *If there is a lien holder, the license branch will request your title from the lien holder for you. You must provide lien holder information.*

- **Motor Vehicle Registration and Plates:** A vehicle must be properly registered and a current license plate affixed to the rear of the vehicle before it can be legally operated. The vehicle must be titled in the registrant's name before it can be registered and a plate issued.
- **How and Where To Register a Vehicle:**
 - **Newly Purchased Vehicle:** A newly purchased vehicle may be registered in person at any license branch in the State of Indiana. Upon proper registration, the applicant will be issued a new plate for the vehicle or transfer his or her Indiana plate.
 - **Registration Renewal:** The BMV routinely mails in advance a preprinted registration renewal notice form as a courtesy reminder to all motorists in BMV records. The

BMV offers four convenient ways (see below) to renew your standard vehicle registration in addition to conducting the transaction at your local license branch. Vehicles are not considered legally registered or renewed until a valid license plate or renewal sticker is affixed to the vehicle.

Four ways to renew your registration through BMV Express

My License Plate

Renew your license plate and vehicle registration in less than 10 minutes from any Internet-connected computer at any time of the day or night! Simply visit **www.bmvexpress.IN.gov** and have the following information handy:

- your license plate number;
- your social security number;
- your insurance information; and
- MasterCard or Visa credit or debit card

Provide your personal and billing information to us through our secure Web server, and we'll send you your new license plate or vehicle registration in the mail in about 10 business days.

Self Service Terminals

When you don't have time to wait for your new license plate or vehicle registration to arrive in the mail, you can use one of our 36 self-service terminals and leave with your renewed vehicle registration in hand! Most SSTs are available 24 hours a day and accept personal checks, MasterCard and Visa credit or debit cards. Simply bring your vehicle registration, social security number, insurance information, and a form of payment with you to one of our SST locations.

Touch-Tone Renewals

Renew your license plate and vehicle registration using your touch-tone phone by calling toll-free, **1.877.4NEW.BMV**. To renew with our Touch-Tone Renewal system, you will need:

- MasterCard or Visa credit card or debit card
- **The PIN number from your vehicle registration renewal notice**

Simply use your touch tone phone to provide your PIN number, confirm your personal information, and submit your billing information. Your new license plate or vehicle registration will be sent to you in the mail within 10 business days.

Mail-In Renewals

With our mail-in renewal service, you're only a few minutes away from completing your license plate and vehicle registration renewal. Simply complete the renewal notice card you receive in the mail, and mail it back to us. If you don't receive a renewal notice, please call us at 317.233.6000 to have one sent to you. Your renewal will be processed as soon as we receive your renewal card, and you'll be on the road in no time! Please allow 1 to 3 weeks to receive your new license plate and vehicle registration.

- **After Registration:** Immediately affix your new plate to the rear of your vehicle **or affix the renewal sticker to your existing plate in the top right-hand corner of the plate to cover the previous year.** Sign your copy of the registration certificate

and keep it in the vehicle at all times. It must be shown on demand to any law enforcement officer.

- **Motor Vehicle Excise Tax:** In Indiana, an excise tax is imposed on all passenger vehicles, motorcycles, all trailers with a declared gross weight of 3,000 pounds and trucks with a declared gross weight of 11,000 pounds or less. The tax is due and payable in full at the time of vehicle registration. Excise tax collected by the BMV is distributed to the county in which the registrant resides and the funds are used by local communities to pay for essential services such as schools, fire and police services.
- **Motor Vehicle Sur/Wheel Tax:** Some counties in Indiana collect sur/wheel tax, which is distributed to the township in which the registrant lives.

HISTORY OF THE INDIANA BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLES

- Year 1905** During that years session of the Indiana General Assembly the first law was enacted in Indiana bringing the automobile under the control and supervision of the state. The fee for a display number on a circular metal seal was \$1.00 with the seal good for as long as the person owned the vehicle. During the first year 4,253 seals were issued. Speed laws were introduced as:
- 8 m.p.h. in business and residential areas
 - 15 m.p.h. in other parts of cities and towns
 - 20 m.p.h. in rural countryside.
- The Assembly appropriated \$200.00 for the department then named “Automobile Department of the Secretary of State” to operate.
- Year 1911** First license plates were issued.
- Year 1912** Approximately 50,000 vehicles were on Indiana roads.
- Year 1920** 333,067 vehicles are registered in Indiana.
- Year 1925** Maximum speed limit becomes 35 m.p.h. and State Police are given enforcement powers.
- Year 1929** Indiana establishes 129 license branches to distribute license plates. The General Assembly passes a law called “Motor Vehicle Operators and Chauffeurs License Law” which requires all drivers to get a license.
- Year 1945** The General Assembly created the Bureau of Motor Vehicles through House Bill 410. Governor Ralph Gates signed it into law.
- Year 1971** Vehicle registration renewals could be done through the mail.
- Year 1991** The Organ Donation Program was implemented, and the Special Recognition license plate program was created to provide funding and recognition to organizations in Indiana.
- Year 1993** Instead of issuing license plates every year, the BMV began issuing multi-year plates with renewal stickers.
- Year 1994** Indiana began its participation in the Problem Driver Pointer System (PDPS). The purpose of this system is to prevent the issuance of a driver license to an individual who has adverse actions against their driving privileges in another state.

Year 1995	Indiana registered the first voter in the country on January 1 under the National Voter Registration Act, or “Motor Voter.”
Year 1997	July 1, the BMV implemented expiration of driver licenses coinciding with birth dates, rather than the end of the birth month. Also, the BMV’s first Web site went online and allowed customers to renew standard vehicle registration via the Internet. The BMV also introduced Self-Service Terminals, machines which allow a customer to renew vehicle registrations in less than ten minutes.
Year 1999	License branches began issuing a digitized driver license, which provided the BMV with image retrieval capability
Year 2001	Cross-county vehicle registration was implemented. Customers could now register and renew their vehicle registrations in any county, regardless of their county of residence.
Year 2004	In March,Central Verification Processing was implemented. A system that allows the validity of all immigration documents to be verified with Citizenship and Immigration Services before identification is issued.
Year 2005	The BMV implemented a new computer system STARS that will make a customers transactions more accurate and convenient.
TODAY	There are approximately 5.5 million vehicle registrations processed.



RECYCLED PAPER

